

REMARKS

Claims 1-13 are pending, and have been rejected. Claim 1 is canceled. Claims 2 and 7 are amended. Claim 14 is new. Claims presently active are claims 2-14. The amendments to Claim 2 are supported by the claims as originally filed and the specification as originally filed, particularly page 2, lines 27-30; page 3, lines 24-25; page 9, lines 4-25; and page 10, line 3 to page 11, line 5. The amendment of Claim 7 changes its dependence from claim 1 to claim 2. Claim 14 is supported by claims 1 and 2 as originally filed and by the specification as originally filed, for example, page 11, lines 9-14. Favorable reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicants respectfully note that the drawings have not been considered by the Examiner, despite Applicants request in the previous response. Review and acknowledgement that the drawings are approved by the Examiner are respectfully solicited.

Claims 1 and 7 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manico et al. (Manico), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0236716 in view of Yip et al. (Yip), U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0128390 and further in view of Alvesalo, U.S. Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0222899. The rejection is moot in view of the cancellation of claim 1 and change in dependency of claim 7 to claim 2. Claim 7 is addressed within the remarks below. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are in order and are respectfully solicited.

Claims 2-6 and 8-13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Manico, Yip, and in view of Alvesalo, and further in view of Salmi et al. (Salmi), European Patent Application No. EP 1 117 230 A2. Applicants traverse the rejection for at least the following reasons.

Manico does not disclose a process adapted to enable an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message, as it is claimed from step d) to step h) in claim 2 of the present application. In Manico, the layout is not automatic, because either the user or the photo service provider 40 selects manually a format for customizing a presentation of a set of digital images capable of being presented on a display device (*see*, in Manico: paragraph 21, steps 120, 205 in figure 2; presentation format options 145, 150, 155 on the request bag 125 in figure 3; paragraph 23, steps 170, 200, 205 in figure 2; paragraph 24, steps 200, 205 in figure 4; paragraphs 26, 27, step 305 in figure 6; claim 1 which defines that a presentation format is selected by the user).

In paragraphs 7 and 23, Manico discloses analyzing semantic information of digital images, and dates or times or subjects of the images. However, Manico does not disclose or suggest at least the features defined from steps f) to h) in claim 2 of the present application, that is, from an automatic analysis of sequential, semantic and relational data of at least two selected initial multimedia messages, the relational data weighting a relationship level between each of the selected initial multimedia messages by using the recording sequential and semantic data, automatically determining at least two transformed multimedia messages corresponding to key parts of the selected at least two initial multimedia messages, and then, automatically laying out, with programmed formats, on at least one page having a first format, a composite multimedia message formed from the at least two transformed multimedia messages, the number of said at least one page being less than the number of said at least two selected initial multimedia messages.

Yip discloses a method for processing digital images comprising a specification for a page layout format, from a specification of a plurality of images, and displaying the page positioning the specified number of images. Yip discloses a SVG page layout logic suited for printing a maximum number of specified images on a single page, and if the number of images specified exceeds the maximum number of images that can be printed on a single page, the SVG page layout logic formats the remaining specified

images on another page(s) (*see*, in Yip: pages 2-3, paragraph 28). The SVG page layout logic of Yip determines the optimal position and maximum number of images that can be laid out on a page using the print page layout format. The SVG page layout logic employs the position feature inherent in the SVG format to efficiently and effectively position and/or orient the images on a print page layout suitable for printing (*see*, in Yip: pages 2-3, paragraph 28). In fact, Yip's SVG page layout logic optimally positions, and possibly sizes, selected images on a suitable number of pages (*see*, in Yip: paragraphs 38, 48). However, it is only a positioning. Thereby, Yip does not disclose or suggest, from an automatic analysis of sequential, semantic and relational data of the at least two selected initial multimedia messages, the relational data weighting a relationship level between each of the selected initial multimedia messages by using the recording sequential and semantic data, automatically determining at least two transformed multimedia messages corresponding to key parts of the selected at least two initial multimedia messages, and then, automatically laying out, with programmed formats, on at least one page having a first format, a composite multimedia message formed from the at least two transformed multimedia messages. Yip does not disclose or suggest notably the automatic change or transformation of the at least two selected initial multimedia messages. Therefore, Yip does not disclose or suggest at least steps d) to g) of claim 2 of the present application, and does not overcome the deficiencies of Manico.

Alvesalo discloses a method and a system for creating a multimedia show or presentation including, for example, images and text. Alvesalo discloses at least one template that defines a structure for the multimedia show (*see*, for example, claims 2 and 35 of Alvesalo). In Alvesalo, a predefined template is used to define a structure for the multimedia show; template, for instance, with multiple content components (picture, text, and/or audio) selected by a user, and placed by the user in the template (*see*, for example, paragraphs 7, 21, 23, 30 and figure 3 of Alvesalo). Indeed, in Alvesalo, the user selects a template and content components for the template,

correlating the content components to the template. The requested content components are transmitted to an editor tool. When the editor tool has all the contents components, it creates the desired multimedia show according to the structure of the template and the corresponding images. However, Alvesalo does not disclose or suggest a process which enables an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message, layout carried out from a sequential, semantic, and relational analysis of data of initial multimedia messages, to determine key parts in view of forming transformed multimedia messages laid out to make up a composite multimedia message, as defined from steps d) to h) in claim 2 of the present application. Thus, Alvesalo does not overcome the deficiencies of Manico or Yip, taken separately or in any combination.

Moreover, in Alvesalo, the multimedia show is a slide show not formatted to fit on a single page or screen. In Alvesalo, it is difficult or even impossible to show the whole template displayed in one screen, so the keyboard of the terminal is used for scrolling the active view of the template and review all the template (*see*, paragraph 25 of Alvesalo). Contrary to the present invention for which the composite multimedia message formed of several multimedia messages is automatically displayed on the terminal screen with several multimedia messages per page of screen (*see*, for example, page 10, lines 5-10 and figure 4 of the present application), Alvesalo must scroll to display only one template (i.e.: one multimedia message) in its entirety. Thus, considering this technical limitation of Alvesalo, Alvesalo teaches away from the claimed invention by teaching a need to scroll to see a single template.

Salmi discloses a method and a system for presenting information from a multimedia message containing one or several multimedia components and addressed to a mobile station, in using a SMIL presentation model known per se (*see*, in Salmi: paragraphs 1, 17; figure 6a). The person setting up a multimedia presentation can construct one or several multimedia page(s) by compiling desired multimedia components, and by placing them in the desired locations corresponding to text or image zones. The multimedia page is transferred to a compiling block to form a multimedia file. And, the

compilation file forming the compiling block is a SMIL format. The presentation model (SMIL) is added to the message (*see*, in Salmi: paragraphs 17, 19, 20; figures 5a, 6a). Salmi is directed to information transformation, such that all components of a message will be received between different formats. However, Salmi does not disclose or suggest a process which enables an automatic layout of a composite multimedia message, layout carried out from a sequential, semantic, and relational analysis of data of initial multimedia messages, to determine key parts in view of forming transformed multimedia messages laid out to make up a composite multimedia message, as defined from steps d) to h) in claim 2 of the present application. Thus, Salmi does not overcome the deficiencies of Manico, Yip, or Alvesalo, taken separately or in any combination, and none of the references in any combination teach at least steps (f) and (g) of independent claim 2..

In view thereof, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been able to combine the teachings of Manico, Yip, Alvesalo, and Salmi in any combination to arrive, without inventiveness, at all the features of the claimed invention. The reason is that none of the cited prior art documents teach, disclose, or suggest, optimizing a layout in automatically transforming selected initial multimedia messages according to the features defined according to sequenced steps d) to i) of the claimed subject-matter in claim 2 of the present application and the limitations thereof, notably in keeping the key parts of the initial multimedia messages selected on the basis of analysis establishing a relationship level between said initial multimedia messages, and then in automatically laying out according to programmed formats on at least one page, a composite multimedia message formed from the at least two transformed multimedia messages, the number of said at least one page being less than the number of said at least two selected initial multimedia messages (*see*, in the present application: for instance, page 9, lines 23-26; page 11, line 21 to page 12, line 5). Therefore, any combination of the teachings of Manico, Yip, Alvesalo, and Salmi does not teach, disclose, or suggest all the combined features of the claimed invention. Applicants have discussed the rejection

with reference to independent claim 2, and note that because the combination of references does not teach all the features of claim 2, the references also do not teach all the features of claims w3-14 dependent from claim 2. For at least the above reasons, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of claims 2-6 and 8-13, and as it might apply to claims 7 and 14, are respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, Claims 2-14 are in condition for allowance. Prompt and favorable action is the form of a Notice of Allowance is thus respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner require anything further, or have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathleen Neuner Manne', is written over a horizontal line.

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If the Examiner is unable to reach the Applicant(s) Attorney at the telephone number provided, the Examiner is requested to communicate with Eastman Kodak Company Patent Operations at (585) 477-4656.